

new schools approved for construction through referendum or completed, as well as an additional 13 expansions to existing schools and colleges undertaken after publication of the 1996 FEIS. This would indicate school districts in particular within the Project Corridor anticipate considerable growth in enrollment of school aged children. Refer to [1996 FEIS, Section 2.3.4](#) for public services and facilities data prior to 1996.

## 2.6 Agriculture

### 2.6.1 Counties

The conversion of agricultural lands to other uses within Will, DuPage and Cook Counties and the Chicago region is summarized in Table 2-9 for the years 1982 to 1997. Note that farm size increased in all but Cook County where a net loss in both number of farms and total farmed hectares (acres) occurred. The reduction in farm count and farmed hectares (acres) resulted from conversion of farmland to other land use and farm consolidation.

Table 2-8 Public Services and Facilities				
Type	Included in 1996 FEIS	Expansion of Existing After 1996 FEIS Publication	Proposed After 1996 FEIS Publication	Referendum Pending
Elementary Schools	11	8	10	1
High Schools	4	4	1	None
Colleges	3	1	None	None
Seminaries	1	None	None	None
Fire Stations	3	1	7	None
Police Stations	None	None	3	None
Medical	1	2	None	None
Places of Worship	4	3	12	None
Cemeteries	15	None	None	None

Table 2-9 Change in Farm Number and Size									
Area	1982 # of Farms	1997 # of Farms	Percent Change	1982 Average Farm Size in Hectares (Acres)	1997 Average Farm Size in Hectares (Acres)	Percent Change	1982 Total Farmer in Hectares (Acres)	1997 Total Farmer in Hectares (Acres)	Percent Change
Will County	1,385	910	-34 %	123 (304)	131 (323)	6.5 %	144,883 (358,000)	118,779 (293,500)	-18 %
DuPage County	210	93	-56%	64 (157)	74 (183)	15.6 %	13,557 (33,500)	6,880 (17,000)	-49 %
Cook County	430	237	-45%	77 (191)	67 (167)	-13.0 %	19,830 (49,000)	15,986 (39,500)	-19 %
Chicago Regional Total (1)	4,695	3,120	-34%	89 (220)	95 (235)	6.7 %	313,145 (773,770)	247,370 (611,242)	-21%

Source: USDA, 1997 Census of Agriculture, 1982 Census of Agriculture  
(1) Includes the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will.

The majority of larger farms in Will County are located within the southern portion of the County. For this reason, the Will County Land Resource Management Plan (1990) designates the majority of agricultural land within the southern portion of Will County, outside the Project Corridor, as agriculture preservation area. The Project Corridor is located in the northern portion of Will County and is an area designated for urban development. No agricultural preservation lands exist within the Project Corridor.

Agricultural land conversion to other use within the Project Corridor since publication of the 1996 FEIS is summarized in Table 2-10. In 1996, the Project Corridor contained approximately 7,460 hectares (18,500 acres) of agricultural land. Approximately 6 percent was converted to other land use between 1996 and 1999. A total of 6,986 hectares (17,327 acres) or 23 percent of the Project Corridor remains in agricultural use.

<b>Table 2-10</b> <b>Agricultural Land Conversion in</b> <b>Project Corridor</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Area Converted</b> <b>Hectares (Acres)</b>
<b>1996</b>	71 (176)
<b>1997</b>	201 (497)
<b>1998</b>	84 (207.8)
<b>1999</b>	118 (291.3)
<b>Total Land</b> <b>Converted</b>	474 (1,172)

Source: USDA

### 2.6.2 Prime Farmland and Others

No substantive change has occurred to this resource since publication of the 1996 FEIS. Refer to [1996 FEIS, Section 2.6.2](#).

## 2.7 Forest Preserves and Parks

The number and size of preserves and parks within the Project Corridor remained unchanged since publication of the 1996 FEIS, with the exception of the Homer Township Open Space located to the northeast of the Gougar Road/Bruce Road intersection and the Will County Forest Preserve District's Spring Creek Preserve/Greenway. The Spring Creek Preserve/Greenway would follow Spring Creek from approximately Farrel Road to Messenger Woods. Table 2-11 summarizes preserves and parks within the Project Corridor.

<b>Table 2-11</b> <b>Preserves and Parks in Project Corridor</b>						
<b>County</b>	<b>1993</b> <b>Total Number</b> <b>of Preserves</b> <b>and Parks</b>	<b>1999</b> <b>Total Number</b> <b>of Preserves</b> <b>and Parks</b>	<b>Planned Preserves</b> <b>and Parks</b>	<b>1993</b> <b>Total</b> <b>Hectares</b> <b>(Acres)</b>	<b>1999</b> <b>Total</b> <b>Hectares</b> <b>(Acres)</b>	<b>Additional</b> <b>Planned</b> <b>Hectares</b> <b>(Acres)</b>
<b>Will</b>	14	14	Spring Creek Flood- plain and Buffer	974 (2,407)	974 (2,407)	513 (1,267)
<b>DuPage</b>	2	2	None	1,076 (2,660)	1,076 (2,660)	None
<b>Cook</b>	2	2	None	61 (150)	61 (150)	None